

NUCLEAR MYTH

Nuclear weapons are needed to combat threats from terrorists and “rogue states.”

FALSE: The threat of nuclear force cannot act as a deterrent against terrorists because they do not have a territory to retaliate against. If the leaders of a rogue state do not use a rational calculus regarding their losses from retaliation, deterrence can fail.

NUCLEAR FACT

The average nuclear weapon in the US arsenal is approximately eight times more powerful than the nuclear bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, immediately killing some 90,000 people. The United States currently has 2,126 strategic warheads, approximately 500 operational tactical warheads, and approximately 6,700 reserve strategic and tactical warheads.

Source: <http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

WHY NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT?

The threat of use of nuclear weapons has been declared generally illegal by the World Court. The July 8, 1996 decision of the International Court of Justice stated that it is generally illegal to use or to threaten to use nuclear weapons. From a legal point of view, it would be virtually impossible to use nuclear weapons without violating the laws of armed conflict. The International Security and Arms Control Committee of the US National Academy of Sciences concluded that “the inherent destructiveness of nuclear weapons, combined with the unavoidable risk that even the most restricted use of such weapons would escalate to broader attacks, makes it extremely unlikely that any contemplated threat or use of nuclear weapons would meet these (the Court’s) criteria.” If nuclear armed nations are serious about upholding international law, they ought to immediately commence negotiations for eliminating and prohibiting all nuclear weapons.

REFLECTION

It is certainly a greater and more wonderful work to change the minds of enemies, bringing about a change of soul, than to kill them.

-- St. John Chrysostom

CORPORATE STAND OF THE CLINTON FRANCISCANS

We, the Sisters of St. Francis of Clinton, Iowa, Associates and Sojourners, oppose the continued maintenance, research, development, and threatened use of the United States arsenal of nuclear weapons. We call on our government to fulfill our commitments to nuclear disarmament as agreed to in the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1970 and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty of 1996.

For more information about nuclear disarmament,
Please visit www.ClintonFranciscans.com

